

Obituary.

JOHN ALCOCK, M.R.C.S.ENG., L.S.A., J.P.

WE briefly announced last week the sudden death of Mr. John Alcock, of Burslem. He had been in his usual health and had left home to pay his ordinary visit to the Hospital on May 7th. On his return he suddenly fell near his own house, and expired immediately. His friends were aware that he suffered from grave heart disease, and that he had had previous warnings that the end might come suddenly. This, however, did not deter him from pursuing his usually active life, and devoting himself to his professional and social duties. John Alcock, who was born in 1833, was the son of Mr. Samuel Alcock, who founded the Hill Pottery at Burslem. He was educated at the Newcastle Grammar School and the City of London School, and matriculated at the London University. He had first entered his father's manufactory, but finding the work uncongenial, he was articled to Mr. Samuel Mayes Turner, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary. The pupil of a hospital surgeon in those days held a position unknown to the modern student, and had opportunities of acquiring experience in those minor details which help so much not only to make a practical surgeon, but to develop the highest professional and personal qualities. Young Alcock made excellent use of his opportunities, and subsequently went to King's College Hospital, where he had a very successful career and became an Associate. In 1857 he obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A.Lond., and was appointed House Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary. Subsequently he commenced practice in Burslem, and in 1865 was elected Honorary Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary. This position he filled with the utmost assiduity and unflinching conscientiousness to the day of his death. He was the first Honorary Surgeon to the Haywood Hospital, Burslem, the establishment of which he was largely instrumental in securing. He was a Governor of the institution, and lost no opportunity of maintaining the best interests of the profession, while keenly alive to the welfare of its patients. As a surgeon he was accurate in diagnosis and skilful as an operator, and by his kind and sympathetic manner gained the confidence and esteem of all his patients. Both in private and professional life he was highly respected and beloved, and his charm of manner endeared him to all, and not least to his professional colleagues. He gave active support to every benevolent scheme, and was one of the principal founders of the Burslem Nursing Institute, and laboured indefatigably in his position as chairman to promote its usefulness. He was a Conservative in politics and an ardent Churchman. He was a justice of the peace for the county of Stafford, and in 1890 was President of the Staffordshire Branch of the British Medical Association, in the work of which he took an active part. He was laid to rest in St. Paul's Churchyard, Burslem, on May 11th, and the close of his active, useful, and unostentatious life has called forth universal expressions of sympathy.

SURGEON-GENERAL JAMES IRVING, M.D.,
Indian Medical Service (Retired).

THIS officer died at Clifton on May 3rd at the age of 75. He was born in Edinburgh in 1822 and after graduating in the University of that city in 1843, entered the Bengal Medical Service in 1847. He attained the rank of Deputy-Surgeon-General in 1874, and retired with the honorary rank of Surgeon-General on December 13th, 1879. He served with distinction throughout the Indian Mutiny. Most of his executive service was spent in the North-West Provinces, where he held important civil charges. For many years he filled the responsible office of Civil-Surgeon of Allahabad, and gained a high reputation as a skilful physician and surgeon. Under a somewhat testy manner he concealed a kindly disposition and most charitable heart, and his advice and aid were eagerly sought and highly valued by those in sickness or trouble. He was an observant man and hard worker, and contributed several papers to the medical press, the best known being *Observations on the Palsy caused by the Vetch (Lathyrus Sativus)*.

His administrative life was spent in Bengal. He was the first Surgeon-General of the combined provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Oressa when the separation took place in 1878 between military and civil medical administration. His work in this capacity was characterised by competence, independence, and shrewdness. Since his retirement he has lived a quiet life, devoting himself to labours of charity and kindness. He was emphatically a conscientious, good man, able withal, and devoted to his profession.

DAVID GARNETT HURTER, M.B., B.Ch. VICTORIA,
House-Physician in the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool.

WE regret to have to record the early death of David Garnett Hurter, which took place at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary on May 9th. Mr. Hurter was a native of Schaffhausen in Switzerland, where he was born in 1875. In October, 1892, he became a student of University College, Liverpool, and the five years of his student career were marked by steady devotion to his work. He gained numerous honours and prizes, and won silver medals in anatomy, medicine, and forensic medicine. He was *proxime accessit* in the examination for the Derby Exhibition, and obtained his M.D. degree with honours in July, 1897. Last October he was appointed Dr. Barr's House-Physician in the Royal Infirmary, and was about to assume the duties of House-Surgeon to Mr. F. T. Paul, when his fatal illness laid him low. The circumstances of his death were peculiarly pathetic. About two months ago he lost his father, Dr. Ferdinand Hurter, after a few hours' illness, and some time afterwards was himself laid up with a severe attack of influenza. With his usual enthusiastic devotion to work, he did not ask for a holiday, but continued his duties in the wards, and worked especially at Widal's test for the recognition of enteric fever.

On April 25th he became seriously ill, and his malady was soon recognised as enteric fever. There was great prostration almost from the first, and he suffered all along from the most persistent vomiting, which made it impossible for him to retain sufficient nourishment, and which resisted all the efforts of the staff of the infirmary to restrain. He finally succumbed to an attack of intestinal hæmorrhage, which appeared about the eighteenth day of the disease.

It is probable that, as he himself believed, he contracted the fever while studying Widal's reaction, and he died the victim of his devotion to science and duty.

He was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, and those who were associated with him as teachers and colleagues anticipated an honourable and perhaps distinguished career for him. He was an enthusiastic lover of the mountains of his native country. His untimely death has cast a gloom of sadness over the medical school, and especially the Royal Infirmary, where he had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

C. HERBERT HURST, Ph.D.

FIVE years ago we had to chronicle the tragic death of Professor Milnes Marshall, and to-day we regret to have to announce the untimely death of his former able assistant and coadjutor Dr. Hurst, which occurred at Dublin on May 10th. Dr. Hurst was an alumnus of the Manchester Grammar School, and afterwards he studied Biology under Professor Huxley with marked success. He entered Owens College as a student in 1881, and in 1883 he was appointed Assistant Lecturer and Demonstrator under the late Professor Milnes Marshall. These posts he held for eleven years, and he fulfilled the duties of his office with conspicuous success. Dr. Hurst was essentially a laboratory man. All details of laboratory work were perfectly familiar to him, and he proved a most excellent organiser and teacher. With Professor Marshall, he produced the well-known *Textbook of Practical Zoology*, a work which has become not only familiar, but almost indispensable to teachers and students of practical zoology.

In 1889 Dr. Hurst studied at Leipzig, where he produced a valuable monograph on the gnat, for which he was awarded the degree of Ph.D.

Dr. Hurst held strong views on many zoological subjects, nor did he hesitate to express them. He delighted in the critical dissection of current topics, and included in his *Criticism of Biological Theory* were papers on The Nature of Heredity, Evolution and Heredity, The Recapitulation

Theory, and other kindred topics. He held some not generally-accepted views on the functions of the crystalline lens, and on the cochlea. His latest publication of importance was on the Archæopteryx. In 1895 Dr. Hurst left Owens College to fill a similar position in the Royal College of Science, Dublin.

Dr. Hurst's untimely death came as a surprise to his former colleagues and his numerous former pupils. He had been ailing for some time from a nervous affection. His premature death robs zoology of a conscientious and enthusiastic worker, whose merits were best known to those who came into intimate relation with him.

WE have to record the death on May 7th of Dr. JOHN HAMILTON KINGLAKE, of Taunton, at the age of 83. His family, which had been settled in the neighbourhood of Taunton for many generations, came from Scotland with James I, and the name is said to be a variant of Kinloch. He was a brother of the author of *Eöthen* and of the *History of the Crimean War*. Dr. Kinglake was educated at Dr. Davis's school in Taunton, and afterwards went to Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.D. in 1837. He established himself in practice in Taunton, and was appointed Honorary Physician to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in 1840. He resigned this position in 1859, but as a life governor retained his interest in the hospital, of which he was a liberal supporter. For some years he was Visiting Physician to the West Somerset Lunatic Asylum. His practice was mainly as a consultant, and his opinion was much valued for many miles round Taunton. In his earlier years he took a prominent part in the political and social life of the district, but for some time before his death had lived in retirement.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the profession abroad who have recently died are Wilhelm Grube, formerly Professor of Surgery in the University of Charkow, aged 71; Dr. Amadeo Marianelli, Extraordinary Professor of Dermatology and Syphiligraphy in the Medical Faculty of Modena; Dr. Philogonio Lopes Utinguassu, Deputy Professor of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy in the Medical Faculty of Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Cornelius N. Hoagland, of Brooklyn, widely known in the United States as a philanthropist, and particularly as a generous giver of money for the furtherance of medical science; and Dr. David W. Yandell, of Louisville, a well-known American physician.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE NAVY.

THE following appointments have been made at the Admiralty: GEORGE W. BELL, Fleet-Surgeon, to the *Crescent*, June 8th; ALFRED J. PICKTHORN, Staff-Surgeon, to the *Marathon*, June 2nd; WILLIAM M. CRAIG, M.B., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Galatée*, June 2nd; JOHN J. DINNIS, M.D., Staff-Surgeon, to the *St. Vincent*, June 8th; SHIRLEY H. BIRT, Surgeon, to the *Crescent*, June 8th; ARTHUR E. KELSEY, B.A., M.B., Surgeon, to the *Collingwood*, lent to the *Despatch*, temporarily, June 8th; EDWARD C. WARD, M.D., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Severn*, May 22nd; JOHN A. KEOGH, Surgeon, to the *Isis*, May 14th.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON-CAPTAINS C. G. WOODS, M.D., and H. T. BAYLOR, are promoted to be Surgeon-Majors. Their first commissions date from August 1st, 1888.

Surgeon-Major-General S. A. LITHGOW, M.D., C.B., D.S.O., retired pay, is appointed Honorary Physician to the Queen, *vice* Surgeon-General S. Currie, M.D., C.B., half pay, deceased. Surgeon-Major General Lithgow's military career has been of a distinguished character. He served with the 75th Regiment during the Indian campaign of 1857-59 (in medical charge from the commencement of the operations against Delhi until the relief of Lucknow), and was present at the action of Budleekeserai, siege of Delhi and capture of the city, pursuit of the enemy and actions of Bolundshuhur, Agra, Allyghur, Akrahad, and Kanoo, advance into Oode, and affairs of Maragunge, Alumbagh, and Dilkoosha, and relief of Lucknow by Lord Clyde, thereafter remained with Outram's Division at the Alumbagh, and was present at the repulse of the several attacks and at the affair of Guillee (medal with two clasps). He was with the Nile expedition in 1884-85 as Principal Medical Officer on the Line of Communication (mentioned in despatches, medal with clasp, and Khedive's star); with the Egyptian Frontier Field Force in 1885-86, including the engagement at Ginnis (mentioned in despatches); and in the operations of the Zhoob Valley Field Force in 1890 (mentioned in despatches). He was nominated a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1885 for his services with the Nile Expedition, and a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in 1886 for service with the Egyptian Frontier Field Force.

Mr. OPIE BEWLEY SMITH, late Surgeon 7th Dragoon Guards, died at Clifton on May 13th, aged 70 years. He entered the service as an Assistant-Surgeon, February 4th, 1853; and was placed on half-pay, October 22nd, 1861.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES MOORHEAD, M.A., M.D., Bengal Establishment, has retired from the service from May 29th. He was appointed Surgeon, September 30th, 1876, and Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel twenty years thereafter.

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel ALEX. CROMBIE, M.D., Bengal Establishment, is permitted to retire from the service, which he entered as Assistant-Surgeon, March 30th, 1872.

The death is announced of the undermentioned officers: Inspector-General JOHN EMELIUS MAYER, retired, on December 3rd, 1897; Deputy-Inspector-General WILLIAM EVANS, M.D., Madras Establishment, retired, at Ladley, Hampshire, on February 21st; Deputy-Surgeon-General JOHN HOUTSON, M.D., retired, at Edinburgh, on December 25th, 1897.

The question having arisen whether all Indian Medical Service doctors are entitled to exchange compensation allowance, the Government have decided that this is the case, provided they are Europeans. This term includes Eurasians who are not statutory natives.

MILITIA MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT H. E. MORTIS is promoted to be Surgeon-Captain.

PRESS COMMENTS ON LORD LANSDOWNE'S SPEECH.

THE *Dublin Express* "is delighted a satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at in reference to the position of army doctors. . . . That it has taken so long to bring this about is due to the obstinate manner in which the officials adhered to what was an antiquated system. The feeling of civilians if tested would be that the medical officers are entitled to the very fullest consideration, and that, in recognising these claims Lord Lansdowne has acted wisely will be the verdict of the public."

The *Irish Times* says: "Lord Lansdowne has steadily striven to overcome the prejudices and practical difficulties that stand in the way of recognition of the true position of the army surgeon. . . . He deserves the highest credit for his successful effort to settle the controversy, and we believe it will be the general verdict that he has determined it wisely and sufficiently. The medical profession will bear in mind the obstacles that the Minister had to overcome, as well as some natural embarrassments in the case."

The *Birmingham Post* says: "The announcement which the Secretary of State for War made at the Mansion House is held by the medical executives to be absolutely satisfactory, and to mean the termination of the difficulties which have resulted from the dearth of applicants for medical positions in the army."

The *Manchester Guardian* says: "Lord Lansdowne's speech at the Mansion House has won favourable opinions from the medical press. It was, indeed, high time that some definite move was taken in the matter he referred to. The chief difficulty has not lain with emoluments, but in such matters as precedence and social status. The bestowal of army rank and title will do away with the social inferiority, which has so long been the bane of the service, and by degrees the evils complained of will disappear. The medical officers' position while actually in the army should at least be well defined and free from obloquy; and Lord Lansdowne's promises will be welcomed on all sides as securing that end."

The *Glasgow Herald* says: "There is good reason to believe that it will be found for once that a great department of State has instituted a reform which is at once thorough and whole-hearted, and entirely satisfactory to those whom it is intended to benefit. . . . Army surgeons will henceforth have a better chance of being treated by their colleagues and superiors as officers and gentlemen. . . . The profession will doubtless look with interest for the details of Lord Lansdowne's scheme, and hope that Sir William Mac Cormac's unconditional eulogy of it was not premature."

The *Morning Post* says: "Again and again in the past have promises and fair statements been made in high quarters, which altogether failed to find fulfilment when the actual dry-as-dust details have come to be published in the prosaic form of a Royal Warrant. Lord Lansdowne should be particularly careful not to allow himself to be persuaded into reducing to the very slightest extent the present prospects of promotion to the highest grades of the Medical Staff. . . . It is the easiest thing in the world to insert a clause in the Royal Warrant declaring that the rank of major-general, when conferred on a medical officer, shall not carry with it any authority of command outside the ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps."

A military correspondent of the *Morning Post* "expresses surprise at that paper advocating the granting of the rank of major-general to medical officers: Lord Lansdowne had shown great weakness in giving way to the medical officers, and in granting combatant rank to non-combatants. But in refusing to make general officers of doctors, he had prevented them becoming the laughing-stock of the Army. Equal treatment should now be meted out in regard to precedence and promotion: a medical officer enters the army with the rank of lieutenant and becomes a captain after three years' service, while a combatant enters as a sub-lieutenant, and does not become a captain under nine years or more."

* * This writer ignores the fact that medical officers enter the army fully professionally equipped at their own expense, at an age from 4 to 8 years older than the combatant; if he attains the rank of captain at from 26 to 28 years of age, so also does the combatant.

THE KHYBER FORCE.

THE demobilisation of the Tirah Expeditionary Force has been decided on, to take effect from April 7th. The troops to be retained in position and until further orders are to be designated the "Khyber Force," and will include the following among other officers: Surgeon-Colonel E. Townsend, as Principal Medical Officer of the Force; and Brigade-